

# INCREASE IN CLAY BELT POPULATION WILL BE PERMANENT

New Land North of the Sault is Becoming a Center of Industry.

100 NEW SETTLERS SINCE LAST FALL

From 4,000 to 5,000 Acres Cleared by Pulpwood Operations Last Winter.

During the winter months the population of that section of the Clay Belt near the northern end of the Algoma Central Railway has increased considerably, and a great deal of the increase has been of a permanent character. This new land north of the Sault is becoming a centre of industry, and its progress is worth watching, while business opportunities are becoming better every day.

Since the first part of last fall about 100 new settlers have taken up land in the section controlled by the Algoma Central, and probably 150 have taken up the land on the Government property. This in itself represents a considerable increase without taking into consideration the large number of additional men that have been engaged cutting pulpwood, many of whom will doubtless take up land in that vicinity.

Talking some time ago of the way the Clay Belt is opening up, Mr. Geo. Fisher, of the Sault, made the remark that there were probably 350 voters in the section between Oba and Hearst in the section between Oba and Hearst.

The town of Hearst itself has been a very busy spot all winter in spite of the fact that it was practically wiped out by fire last summer. Quite a business community has sprung up since that time, and, according to Mr. P. T. Hancox, who recently visited the town, it has now a population of about 400, of which probably half is English speaking.

The majority of the settlers on the farms are English speaking, though in some sections, such as around Oba, there are a large number of Bulgarians and Russians.

The largest settlement of farmers is that around Wyborn, where there are about 50 within 2½ miles of the post office. Other large settlements are at Stavert, Oba and Hale.

About 4,000 or 5,000 acres have been cleared by the pulpwood operations of the past winter, and most of the pulpwood has been shipped out. The cold weather of the last few days

has served to preserve the roads and make it possible to get out the last of the wood.

Lately a number of settlers have taken up land along the Algoma Central in the Goulais Valley and near Searchmont. The available land in that section will thus be farmed, and the farmers expect to do a large business with the lumber camps.